

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 3 and 9-14 are pending. Claims 3, 9 and 11, the only independent claims, have been amended. Claims 3 and 9-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious from U.S. Patent 4,823,952 (Fletcher et al.). Applicant submits that the independent claims are patentable over the cited reference for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to a portable information radio terminal device comprising: a device body; a printed board provided in the device body; an electronic part provided on the printed board; and an elastic member in direct contact with and supporting the printed board inboard of, and without contacting, a perimeter of the device body within the device body. The device body includes a first and second casing to be assembled with each other, and the elastic member is disposed between the printed board and the first casing and between the printed board and the second casing.

The claimed placement of the elastic member provides superior protection from shock when compared with configurations using elastomeric strips in the connection joints between the casings. Further, in the invention defined in claim 1, the printed board is not limited to a shape that corresponds to the shape of the perimeter of the casing and yet may be securely held in place within the casing. Because the printed board shape is not so limited, the claimed structure allows for the use of boards of various sizes and shapes, depending on need, and not as constrained by the shape of the casing, as in prior techniques.

In Fletcher, on the other hand, elastomeric strips 56, 58 and 60 are provided so as to fit between bosses 88, the bosses 88 being provided for the assembling screws 82 that hold the frames 102 together, and at the perimeter of the casing. The circuit boards are clamped between the frames 102 using the elastomeric strips at the connection points of the frames such that the elastomeric strips are *at and in contact with* the perimeter of the frame 102. Fletcher does not teach or suggest an elastic member in direct contact with and supporting the

printed board inboard of, and without contacting, a perimeter of the device body within the device body, as in claim 1.

Since the boards in Fletcher must be secured at points along the perimeter of the casing, the shape of the boards in Fletcher is limited to those shapes that conform to the shape of perimeter of the casing. Moreover, since the elastomeric strips of Fletcher are in contact with the perimeter, shock applied to the casing in Fletcher is more easily transmitted directly to the board as compared to the claimed structure, in which the elastic member is inboard of, and not in contact with, the perimeter, and may be configured to respond more independently of the case, for example as shown in Figure 1B. For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is believed patentable over Fletcher.

Independent claim 9 is a method of manufacturing a portable information radio terminal device. Claim 9 recites, inter alia, arranging a printed board on one of first and second casings with an elastic member positioned inboard of, and without contacting, a perimeter of the one of the first and second casings. Claim 9 is believed patentable over Fletcher for reasons similar to those presented above in connection with claim 1.

Claim 11 is directed to a portable information radio terminal device comprising: a housing; a printed circuit board; and a cushion in contact with both the housing and the printed circuit board so as to support the printed circuit board within the housing, the cushion being positioned inboard of, and without contacting, a perimeter of the housing. Claim 11 is believed to distinguish over Fletcher for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the

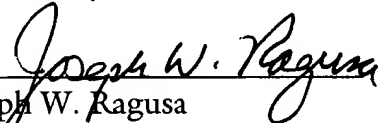
invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. At the very least, entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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